

Dear Pedagogical Team,

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application for the Joint Master's Programme "Managing the Digital Transformation in the Health Sector."

As a Medical Doctor specialising in General Surgery, with a particular focus on Colorectal surgery, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols, and the advancements in Robotic Surgery, I have gained firsthand insight into the significant role of digital innovation within our healthcare systems. This programme's integrated approach, encompassing Health Sector, Societal, and Digital Skills, appears to be an ideal pathway for me to acquire the crucial competencies needed to contribute effectively to this ongoing transformation.

My daily engagement as a surgeon frequently exposes me to clinical situations where both the current limitations and the transformative potential of new technologies become strikingly apparent. I envision leveraging technology to meticulously monitor and enhance patient outcomes across both elective and emergency surgical settings, or utilising advanced tech-assisted image interpretation to refine pre-operative planning and support critical intra-operative decision-making. The prospect of intra-operative augmented reality guiding procedures, or sophisticated tissue perfusion model analysis enhancing surgical safety, is particularly compelling. These are not merely abstract concepts but tangible advancements that I am eager to help integrate into standard practice.

Furthermore, I am convinced that digital solutions are pivotal for improving care coordination across different healthcare environments, such as fostering better collaboration with non-hospital health units and professionals to ensure more seamless and continuous patient management. The capability for real-time monitoring of day-surgery patients post-discharge, facilitated by technology, also represents a significant advancement in improving patient safety and their overall recovery experience. My clinical practice has solidified my belief that understanding and implementing such digital innovations are fundamental to the future of surgery.

It is precisely this recognition of immense potential - and the existing challenges in widespread, effective implementation - that draws me to this Master's programme. While my background is firmly anchored in clinical practice, I acknowledge the imperative to develop a comprehensive understanding of digital technologies, data analytics, and the strategic management skills required to spearhead successful digital transformation initiatives in healthcare. This programme's curriculum promises to equip me with the very knowledge and skills I am actively seeking.

My aspiration is to evolve into a surgeon who not only excels clinically but can also effectively champion and integrate digital innovations into surgical practice and broader healthcare workflows. I am keen to learn how to bridge the often-perceived gap between clinical requirements and technological solutions, ensuring that new tools are practical, ethically sound, and demonstrably improve patient outcomes. This Master's offers the structured and advanced learning environment I need to cultivate these essential skills.

I am confident that my in-depth clinical understanding, combined with a strong desire to learn and adapt, will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to this programme. Subsequently, I aim to become an effective proponent and implementer of change in the digital evolution of surgery and healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application. I look forward to the potential opportunity to discuss further how my clinical perspective and commitment to innovation align with the objectives of your programme,

Telma Brito